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**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claims 36 – 90 and add new claims 91 – 137.

91. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 $\beta$ , wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 41;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 38.

92. The antibody of Claim 91 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 47 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 48.

93. The antibody of Claim 91 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 68 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 48.

94. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 $\beta$ , wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35.

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95. The antibody of Claim 94 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 45 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 46.

96. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 $\beta$ , wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36.

97. The antibody of Claim 96 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 49 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 50.

98. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 $\beta$ , wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 39;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35.

99. The antibody of Claim 98 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 51 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 52.

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100. An isolated antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 $\beta$ , wherein said antibody comprises:

- a) a light chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29;
- b) a light chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- c) a light chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17;
- d) a heavy chain CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- e) a heavy chain CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21;
- and,
- f) a heavy chain CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 30.

101. The antibody of Claim 100 wherein said antibody comprises a heavy chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 53 and a light chain encoded by the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 54.

102. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 92.

103. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 102.

104. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 103.

105. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 104 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

106. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 92.

107. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 92.

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108. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 93.

109. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 108.

110. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 109.

111. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 110 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

112. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 93.

113. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 93.

114. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 95.

115. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 114.

116. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 115.

117. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 116 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

118. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 95.

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119. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 95.

120. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 97.

121. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 120.

122. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 121.

123. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 122 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

124. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 97.

125. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 97.

126. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 99.

127. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 126.

128. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 127.

129. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 128 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

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130. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 99.

131. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 99.

132. An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 101.

133. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 132.

134. A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 133.

135. A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 134 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

136. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 101.

137. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 101.